

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled):

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method for assaying the presence and/or amount of an alpha glycated peptide in a sample comprising:

treating a sample suspected of containing an α-glycated peptide with at least one oxidase which produces hydrogen peroxide upon reacting with the α-glycated peptide, and  
determining the presence and/or amount of a generated product or consumed substance by said reaction.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 13, comprising determining the presence and/or amount of hydrogen peroxide generated by treatment of the sample suspected of containing an α-glycated peptide with said at least one oxidase.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 14, wherein the presence and/or amount of hydrogen peroxide generated by treatment of the sample suspected of containing an α-glycated peptide with said at least one oxidase is determined using an oxygen electrode.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 14, wherein the presence and/or amount of hydrogen peroxide generated by treatment of the sample suspected of containing an α-glycated peptide with said at least one oxidase is determined enzymatically.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 13, wherein said at least one oxidase is derived from a modified *Corynebacterium* amino acid oxidase gene.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 13, wherein said at least one oxidase is the same as that produced by *Escherichia coli* DH5 $\alpha$  (pFP1).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 13, wherein said glycated peptide is an  $\alpha$ -glycated dipeptide.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim ~~19~~ 13, wherein a peptide portion of the  $\alpha$ -glycated peptide is a short chain peptide having 2 to 6 amino acids.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim ~~19~~ 13, wherein the  $\alpha$ -glycated peptide is fructosyl valyl histidine.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 13, further comprising treating a sample suspected of containing a glycated protein with at least one protease for a time and under conditions suitable for the production of an  $\alpha$ -glycated peptide to obtain said sample suspected of containing an  $\alpha$ -glycated peptide.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein said at least one protease is derived from *Aspergillus*.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein said at least one protease is derived from the genus *Aspergillus* and is selected from the group consisting of Molsin, AO Protease and Peptidase.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein said at least one protease is derived from *Saccharomyces*.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein said at least one protease is carboxypeptidase Y.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein said at least one protease is derived from *Bacillus*.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein said at least one protease is Protin P.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein said sample suspected of containing a glycated protein is suspected of containing HbA1c.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein said sample suspected of containing a glycated protein is suspected of containing a glycated protein other than HbA1c.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein said sample is obtained from a subject suspected of having a diabetic condition or who has a diabetic condition.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein said sample is obtained from a subject who does not have a diabetic condition.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A method for assaying the presence and/or amount of a glycated protein in a sample comprising:

treating a sample suspected of containing a glycated protein with at least one protease and

determining the presence or absence of, and/or amount of, fructosyl valyl histidine liberated from said sample.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 33, wherein the presence or absence of, or the amount of, fructosyl valyl histidine liberated from said sample is determined by HPLC.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A kit comprising:

an oxidase which produces hydrogen peroxide by reacting with an  $\alpha$ -glycated peptide.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The kit of Claim 35, wherein said oxidase is an oxidase derived from a modified *Corynebacterium* fructosyl amino acid oxidase gene.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The kit of Claim 35, wherein said oxidase is the same as that produced by *Escherichia coli* DH5 $\alpha$  (pFP1).

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The kit of Claim 35, further comprising one or more protease(s).

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The kit of Claim 35, further comprising at least one reagent for assaying hydrogen peroxide.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The kit of Claim 35, further comprising a nonglycated hemoglobin fraction and/or a glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) fraction.